



Brownfields 2004 Grant Fact Sheet

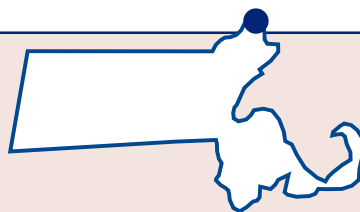
Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board, Lawrence, MA

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The job training grants provide training for residents of communities affected by brownfields to prepare them for employment in the assessment and cleanup of brownfield sites. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board (MVWIB) was selected to receive a job training grant. The focus of this grant will be on the City of Lawrence's federally designated Renewal Community, which is plagued by poverty, disinvestment, and other problems, including the presence of a significant number of brownfields. Renewal Community residents primarily are Hispanic. The unemployment rates in seven of the nine census tracts in the community



Job Training Grant

\$197,035

EPA has selected the Merrimack Valley Workforce Investment Board for a job training grant. The MVWIB plans to train 40 students, achieve a 75% placement rate, and track students for one year. The program will consist of 168 hours of training, including courses in hazardous waste and safety, asbestos and lead abatement, and confined space entry. Ten students will be eligible for additional training in environmental sampling. Students will be recruited from the Renewal Community of the City of Lawrence. Placement of graduates in environmental jobs will be assisted by the Valleyworks Career Center and an employer advisory committee established to support the job training program.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 1 Brownfields Team
617-918-1305
<http://www.epa.gov/region01/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Merrimack Valley Workforce
Investment Board, MA
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exceeds 25%. The city is working to clean up several brownfields within the Renewal Community. Remediation continues on the old Oxford Paper Mill and is expected to intensify at the Quadrant component of the Gateway Project, which will improve transportation in the Gateway area and add public space along the canal. MVWIB expects demand for graduates of the training program to be high. A survey of twelve local environmental firms indicated that nine planned to hire workers within the next two years.